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An Undescribed Scandent *Solanum* of Central Colombia

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Few species-alliances within the large and diversified genus *Solanum* as represented in the New World tropics are as distinctive in their habit and vegetative characters as the scandent group of the northern Andes of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, centering about *Solanum asperimum* Bitter & Moritz. These are known by the folk name of una *de gato* or "cat's claw" because of their aculeate stems, petioles, and leaf midribs. Members of this species-group are readily recognized by their scandent, long flexuous stems, which clamber over vegetation by means of the prominent recurved prickles of their stems and leaves, and known by their oval, entire, generally short-petiolate leaves. They have generally been labelled in herbaria "*Solanum asperrimum*" sometimes with the admitted reservation "vel aff." From the limited evidence at hand this group represents a score or more of closely related species, each uncommon in its region, and well characterized by their different kinds and combinations of pubescence and by the varying length of their corolla lobes and sepals. A number of scattered collections in flower **only** have accumulated in American herbaria but it would present a fuller and more reliable interpretation of the taxonomy of this group to postpone a revision until additional and particularly more fruiting collections are at hand, at which time a synoptical key may be presented. *Solanum siparunoides* of the Cordillera Central of central Colombia is one of the taxa of this species-group for which four collections are at hand, with specimens in both flower and fruit.

Solanum siparunoides **sp. nov.**

Scandent shrub 2-10 m. high, the flowering stems stout, fibrous, fuscous, with a close-set pubescence of very numerous stramineous bristles, these 2.0-2.5 mm. long, much-branched distally, ultimately deciduous from a more or less pustulate base, the bristles interspersed with occasional unci-

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nate prickles, the latter especially prominent on the midribs of the lower leaf surfaces; leaf-blades rather bullate, dark-green, short-petiolate, oval, elliptic, or sometimes broadly ovate, 12-14 cm. long, 5-7 cm. wide, entire or a little sinuate, inaequilateral at the base, acute or acuminate to a distinct tip as much as 1 cm. long, subglabrous above or with scattered bristles on the evident veins, darker green and stellate pubescent beneath, increasingly bristly as well toward the base, the midrib aculeate; racemes rather short, spreading, opposite the leaves, 12- to 25-flowered, the peduncle short, stout, the distal flowers abortive, the entire inflorescence rich fulvous stellate-pubescent, particularly in bud, the calyces permanently setose with stout tapering bristles, the sepals in anthesis ca. 5 mm. long, involute, ascending, the corolla lobes erect or scarcely spreading, exerted, 10-12 mm. long, densely stellate-pubescent on the back, whitish within; fruiting calyx accrescent, the lobes ultimately 15-22 mm. long, setose-bristly, acuminate or distinctly caudate, persisting as a rigid 5-rayed, incurved grappling hook; berries 4-7, globose, 18-20 mm. in diameter, olivaceous, shining, glabrous, the fruiting pedicels ca. 1 cm. long.

Frutex 2-10 m. altus, ramulis scandens, crassis, fuscis, dense echinatis atque etiam sparse aculeatis, sed in venis prominente aculeatis. Lamina foliorum ovalis, ellipticis vel late ovatis, saepe acuminatis, plus minusve bullatis, atroviridis, 12-14 cm. longa, integra vel subsinuata, basi inaequalateralis, breve petiolata. Flores albidis, 12-25 in racemis subcongestis, oppositifoliis divaricatis, fulvis stellato-pubescentibus atque setosis, lucidis, pedunculo elongato, firmo. Fructus globosis, 18-20 mm. in diametro, atroviridis atque glabrus, nitens, pericarpo crasso. Pedunculus firmus, decurvus, ca. 1 cm. longus, calycis persistentibus, accrescentibus, setosis vel echinatis, lobis acuminatis vel caudatis atque patentibus.

Type from paramillo thickets along a ridge, Alto Capiro, above the Sonsón-Abejorral camino, ca. 2800 m. ele., Cordillera Central, Department of Antioquia, Colombia, 26-28 May 1944, *Joseph A. Ewan* 15766 (USNA; isotypes, COL, NO).

Additional collections:

Colombia: Dept. Antioquia: Paramo de Sonsón, 2700-2850 m. ele., 26 Jan. 1945, *Bro. Daniel* 3465 (in fruit; US) ; vicinity of Medellín, 1911, *Rev. Chas. Charetier* 68 (US) ; Santa Elena, 1500-2000 m.; 28 Dec. 1930, *W. A. Archer* 1208 (US).

The four collections cited agree closely in morphological characters though *Archer* 1208 has a dingy arachnoid pubescence on the stems, petioles, and pedicels in addition to the bristles and prickles, and the fruiting calyces are somewhat larger and more reflexed away from the berry.

Lorenzo Uribe Uribe briefly describes (1941, p. 254-259) twenty species of *Solanum* from Antioquia but does not account for this scandent aculeate species. Hodge lists (1947, p. 315) twenty-three species of *Solanum* for the Department of Antioquia including *Solanum asperrimum* from Los Micos. I have not seen *Toro* 830, the collection upon which this record is based. From a study of the original description and the photograph of the type (Las Lagunitas, Merida, Venezuela, *Moritz* 1024), Morton has restricted (1944, p. 70) *Solanum asperrimum* Bitter & Moritz to plants of Venezuela and Colombia, conceding the Peruvian and Brazilian collections to be another species. Pittier's reference (1926, p. 392) to *Solanum asperrimum* from Colonia Tovar, Venezuela, may refer, rather, to *S. secundum* Bitter & Moritz, Fedde Rep. Nov. Spec. 16:391. 1920, based on *Moritz* 1906, taken there, the type preserved in the British Museum.

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Addendum

Solanum inopinum Ewan, *Chicago Acad. Sci., Nat. Hist. Misc.* no. 88, p. 8, 1951.

Type from thickets along the river terrace, vicinity of pueblo of San Juan, on Rio San Juan, 2200 m. ele., Department of Nariño, Colombia, 5 Sept. 1944, *Joseph A. Ewan* 16081 (USNA; isotypes, COL, NO).